The whole note
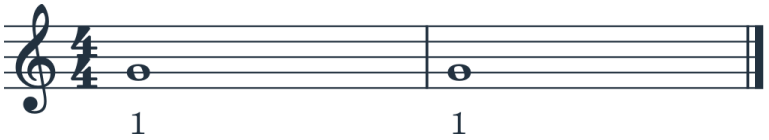
The longest of the basic notes: the **whole note** fills a **whole bar** of 4/4 all by itself — four slow counts of ringing sound.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE — AND HOW LONG IT LASTS



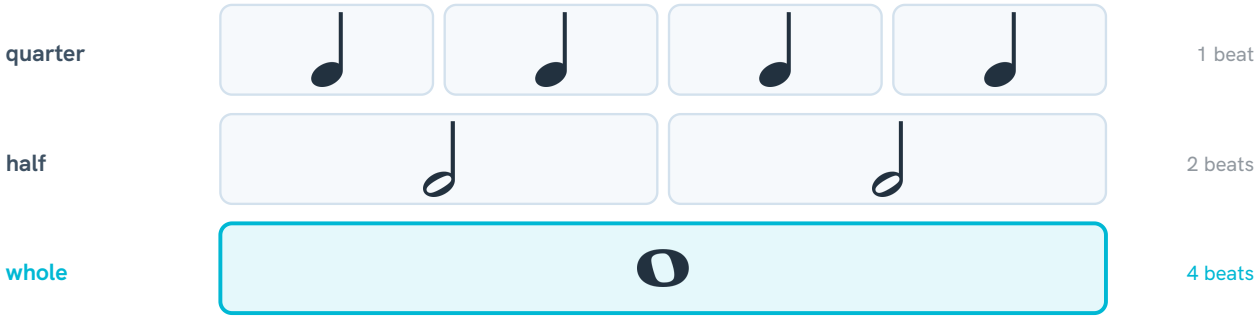
4 beats

- **hollow notehead** — open and unhurried
- **no stem at all** — nowhere to go — it just sits and sings



Play on "1" — then count "2 - 3 - 4" while it rings.

THE BAR IN ONE BREATH



One whole note = two halves = four quarters. Your whole note family so far, in one picture.

HEAR IT IN A MELODY



Long tones love song endings — and give you time to listen.

TAP THE RHYTHM



One tap, then three silent counts — then busy quarters, then halves, then stillness again. Feel how different one bar can be!

Try it Play a whole note and **listen to it fade** while you count 1-2-3-4 slowly. Keeping steady time through a long note is harder than playing fast — this is where your inner clock gets built.

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.